



**TECHNICAL STUFF:**

COLOR: Color (4K)

TRT: 86 Minutes

ASPECT RATIO: 1.88 : 1 (5.7K) (shooting ratio) / 2.00 : 1 (4K) (intended ratio)

CAMERA: Panasonic AU-EVA1 (Modified Zeiss Contax Lenses)

PROCESS: Super 35 (5.7K)



**SYNOPSIS:**

After receiving a confusing letter in the mail one morning indicating that his daughter has been kidnapped, Jim Jenkins (Joseph Graham), the quintessential deadbeat dad and *sort of* detective, heads out to an unfamiliar address to investigate. He arrives instead to discover two complete strangers (Amy Anderson, John Wessling) amid an seemingly innocuous Craigslist exchange for a suicide sword. Suspicious about this meetup, Jim decides to spy on and harass the formerly unfamiliar apartment dwellers. In the process, the three discover a mysterious and unstable kitchen sink that is revealed to be a *time teleportation* device that, if understood, could solve all of Jim's problems with his daughter, ex-wife, and of course *the Russians*.

**LOGLINE:**

A deadbeat detective investigates a cryptic note that leads to the discovery of an incomprehensible kitchen sink.

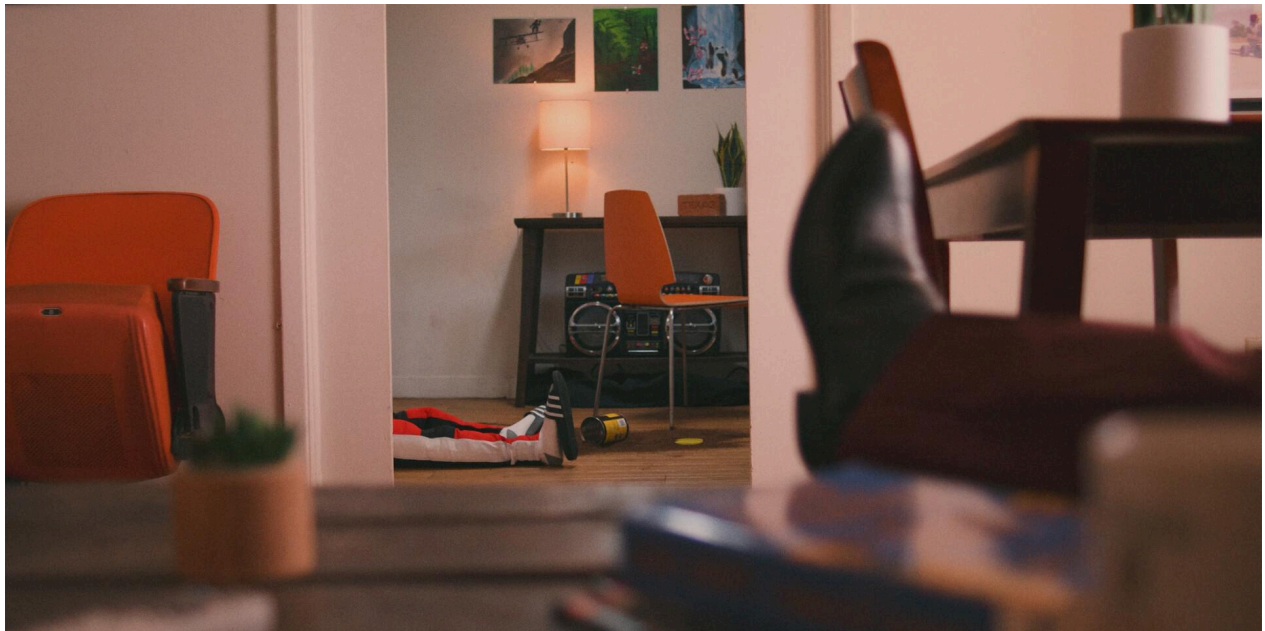
**TAGLINE:**

*A teleported, witchcrafty, kidnapping adjacent, butterfly knife comedy....with Time Travel!*

*"It's strange in all the best of ways and moves at a rapid clip that never gets tired or plain. In fact, I kind of want to watch it again right now."  
-B&S About Movies*



TRAILER: [▶ SOMEONE DIES! | Official HD Trailer | Monster Closet](#)



## **WRITER/DIRECTOR BIO**

Justin Petty is supplying the film world with challenging lo-fi sci-fi indie comedies from the artistically enigmatic space of Houston, TX. He's been compared to Joel Potrykus with his mentally overtaxed slacker film 'Nothing Really Happens,' but with his second feature "SOMEONE DIES!" (formally titled "DICKHEAD") Petty gives us his unique take on a comedy of errors, as three farcical characters are faced with the puzzling nature of time travel and...assholicism.



## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

Think of your favorite movie. You're thinking of HEAT, right? Michael Mann's HEAT. Great. So we're both thinking about HEAT. You know what makes HEAT great? The cinematography, the sound editing, Pacino's performance, the script and – most importantly – the fact that someone dies.

Every great movie has someone dying. Think about it! JURASSIC PARK has that guy that gets eaten on the toilet. JAWS opens with someone getting eaten by a big ol' shark! SPIDER-MAN doesn't happen if Uncle Ben doesn't kick the bucket. Therefore, it's death that makes movies worth watching.

I've always been fascinated with the idea of dying....but also interested in making a bottle movie! I suppose covid lockdowns kind of coaxed these ideas to the front of my mind's queue in a way that I didn't realize until I wrote this statement. So I wrote this bottle movie and filled that bottle with three (or four) of the most asinine characters I've conceived so far (except for maybe NOTHING REALLY HAPPENS' Carl) with the clear understanding that someone had to die. Through the assistance of the great and talented Joseph Graham ("Jim Jenkins," producer) and Amy Anderson ("Jane," story editor) I was able to figure out who should die and how that fit into the larger story I was trying to tell. And you know what? I think they did a damn good job of polishing the rusted jalopy of my ADHD mind into a well-oiled Mercury Cougar. So thanks to them.

As I continue with this statement and my own self-discovery, I'm finding that SOMEONE DIES! deals with several themes that have been present throughout my life: clinging to the past through willful ignorance, generational bigotry, childhood trauma and abandonment, toxic masculinity, and learning to let go.

All in all – and stop me if you've heard this before – we made Primer. Except it's Primer with idiots. And it's by idiots. And it's probably for idiots (not you though, you're great and smart). So yeah. When I'm giving my acceptance speech, I'm going to thank the filthy Russkies for inventing covid so that my idiot friends and I could make this beautiful, funny, weird, idiotic thing full of nice people trying their best... and us killing one of them.

-Justin Petty



## **CAST and CREW**

### **JOSEPH GRAHAM - Jim/Producer**

The Houston native finds himself shoved in front of the camera again for creative partner Justin Petty's unwieldy second feature film. *SOMEONE DIES!* Is his follow-up project after Joseph's award winning horror short *MASHED POTATO FACE*, which captured the attention of America's sweetheart Keke Palmer (He is going to bring this up any time he gets a chance). After portraying the mentally *off* "Carl" in Petty's first film *NOTHING REALLY HAPPENS*, Joseph continues to galvanize the gang into collectively giving birth to this next weird thing from Monster Closet. He also brings big dickhead energy along with a thick mustache to the bonkers scenarios of *SOMEONE DIES!* As Jim.

### **AMY ANDERSON - Jane/Story Editor**

A Texan who has spent the last 12 years morphing into a Chicagoan, Amy is the co-founder and producer of Chicago based sketch comedy theater company, Huggable Riot. They have written, produced, and performed over 25 hour long sketch revues and enjoyed residencies at famed live comedy meccas including *The Second City* and *The Annoyance*. Amy joins the *SOMEONE DIES!* cast not only to supply annoyed facial expressions and a heartfelt performance in Jane, but also provided story editing and dialog re-writes for the film.

### **JOHN WESSLING - Glen**

A former final contestant on *Last Comic Standing*, John continues to tour as a professional comedian around the world. His work with Justin Petty and Joseph Graham's comedy Youtube channel was some of the comedy troupes best output in the 2010s and John continues to build a following with the future-apocalypse-comedy musings podcast *AfterLater*. John provides a real 'Homer Simpson' sensibility to the Glen character in *SOMEONE DIES!*

### **ADAM EDWARDS - Ivan/Co-Producer**

Adam Edwards takes on one of the most deliciously absurd characters for *SOMEONE DIES!* Host of the *Trash Kings* podcast, Adam thanklessly wrangles guests as they evaluate the qualities that make a movie true trash. He also previously starred in *Monster Closet's* first feature film as Dave, the mattress store owner who annoys everyone by losing touch with reality. For the role of Ivan, Adam spent months refining his butterfly knife skills, getting unreasonably out of fashion haircuts, and learning to rap in a horrible Russian accent.

### **ANTHONY OBI aka FAT TONY - The Wizard**

The famed DJ and Rapper born in Houston (now living in the Cali/AZ areas) brings an otherworldly (and appropriately wiggled) energy to the proceedings of *SOMEONE DIES!* As the

Wizard, Anthony did not actually have sex with stolen chairs. But he does provide the credit track to the film (*Texas* by Fat Tony), which is very sexy.

### **MICHAEL LANGHAUSEN - Director of Photography**

A real production gear-head based in Dallas, Michael takes his second stab directing the photography of a feature film (*Flau Brucht*, dir. *Stephen Mailer* being the first) to go along his long list of award winning television and music video credits. He is one of the smartest people we have ever met. And that's why he tends to not shoot films solely for a living, as it is insane. He chiefly operates as a post-production supervisor for television and film and also picked up a variety of duties during post-production for *SOMEONE DIES!*

### **MICHAEL COMEAUX - Makeup/Practical Effects**

Creative mastermind and potential sasquatch, Michael designed, executed, and won Best Makeup Effects at the Prison City Film Festival for the effects that brought the grotesque nature of time travel to life. Working with Monster Closet since before it was born, Michael is a two time award winning effects artist, writer of odd comic books, and a successful salesman of gaff tape. Michael also wrote the original song, *Ivan's Freestyle*, for *SOMEONE DIES!* which taught us all about the skills needed to properly wield a butterfly knife.





## **FAQs**

### **How did the idea come about and what inspired the script?**

Joseph and Justin had a bit of a writing challenge to see who could come up with something to be shot predominantly in one location. Joseph's script was a bit on the wild side involving the need for an animated brain squid monster, but thankfully Justin's time portal detective story was more feasible on a small budget and they pressed forward with what was once a very basic idea about a "dickhead" detective, but through development became a pretty sincere comedic time travel farce. Justin was interested in exploring how dickheads have affected he and his wife's life and despite the farcical nature of it, the film manages to say something about generational trauma that makes it quite unique.

### **How long did it take to complete?**

Principal photography took 16 days with 4 additional pickup days here and there in 2021. Although shooting was brief, the post-production on this one took an enormous amount of time due to lack of resources and a real rehaul of the edit in 2022, and then a lot of painstaking months of Vfx and color correction in 2023 and we finally exported the final\_final\_final version in early 2024. As much as we tried, it took about as long as our first feature film, which we shot on weekends over the course of nearly two years.

### **What was it like shooting during the covid lockdowns?**

Unfortunately, at this point, this question is just a marker of how long we were in post on this film, but thinking back on it, it was serendipitous that we were planning a very small, one location shoot even before covid hit the States. It probably would have been impossible to do any other way on our budget. But we never had more than 4 crew members working on this thing, and usually 2-3 actors in every scene, so no more than 7 people in a room really made it possible. Everyone was kind enough to take a lot of precautions as most of us were only half immunized. The cast and crew all stayed isolated for about 2-3 weeks before principal photography, which included our DP not going on a date that he was really looking forward to (sorry Michael), and John Wessling (who plays Glen) giving up some paying stand-up gigs that were very few and far between at that point. Amy was our sole out of townner, and she flew down twice for shooting with 3 masks and a face visor in an attempt to keep the shoot on schedule. We did some covid testing weekly, and took some training courses on how to stay safe beforehand, and it all worked out. Thankfully no one actually died, despite the title of the film.

### **Can you tell me how you found the actors?**

Joseph was not the initial pick to play Jim, but after the first actor fell through, Joseph did a table read with the other actors and sort of gave the character a gruff, manic, vaguely alcoholic sort of take that provided a new sense of comedy and depth to the character.

Joseph was initially set to play Glen, but after moving to the Jim role, Justin asked comedian John Wessling to join in on a table read and after working with John a couple of other times, he just immediately won everyone over with his energy and instinctual understanding of Houston's flavor of lovable southern slacker types. Amy Anderson is one of Joseph's lifelong friends who has been doing things here and there for the Monster Closet production gang probably since its inception. Typically involved in the writing or production side of comedy theater, Amy has also trained in multiple schools of acting and improv performance. Rounding out the cast is Adam Edwards who began his film career as the lead in Justin's first film and has come back to play the bizarro maybe-Russian weirdo, Ivan. And famed rapper (and our secret idol) Fat Tony just happened to be in town while shooting and agreed to slap on a wig and a weird frock and be our wizard.

### **What locations did you use?**

We shot this near completely at Joseph's former apartment complex that had hosted a litany of projects over the ten or so years he lived there. It's an older complex on Heights Blvd that definitely will be gone in the next decade as it is partially decaying. But it was this sort of background to our lives that he had made plans to move out of in 2022, so we wanted to send the place off with something really special. Our lighting setup consisted of a giant set of lights outside of a window that required a reflective box to sit on the balcony for the majority of two weeks. Thankfully the good folks that manage the property did not mind and none of the neighbors bothered us, except for the drunk lady singing Sarah MacLaughlin at 11am every Sunday, which became a sound issue. But everything shot was around that apartment in the Heights, which is generally considered a good area despite Jim Jenkin's reference to it as "gross."

### **How did Michael Langhausen get involved?**

Michael is a great source of technical information and had also shot a music video or two for Monster Closet a few years prior. Once he moved back to Texas, we knew we wanted to do something bigger with him and he and Justin had a few brief conversations, and Michael was off and running in his studio, testing set-ups for how to have the apartment look like it was one time of day for 24 hours a day. He then helped us out quite a bit with post-production, and got us up to speed with the latest in cloud editing and DaVinci Resolve which we will be using for everything now. Just a great great resource and very goofy man who would not stop drinking entirely too much coffee the entire shoot. He was the real Jim Jenkins if you think about it.

### **How did Ivan's rap come to be included in the film?**

In the script, Justin had written something like "And then Ivan freestyle raps." And so we knew that we had to get our good friend Michael Comeaux (who was already doing the makeup effects) more involved. Michael has been freestyle rapping for us for decades now,

and we wanted him to have a moment. And so one day Adam (who was set to play Ivan) and Michael went to a Houston flea market and spent the day together trying to figure out what this rap was going to be. They came to a table of butterfly knives for sale, and the character immediately started to take more shape and the “Butterfly Knife, skills for real” rap was in gestation. Michael spent the week writing and then popped by Joseph Graham’s home where he sometimes makes music under the *MurderParty* moniker, and he put together a track and recorded Michael performing it. We sent that to Justin and Amy and everyone was kind of amazed. Then later we had Adam re-record the song for his part in the movie. As a tribute to Michael Comeaux (aka *Ghost Piss*), we shot him performing the song on the last day of principal photography and put that in the back end of the credits. Something so dumb made us all incredibly happy, which is really the highest compliment and our favorite kind of art. We hope everyone who sees it is equally tickled by it.



### **What are plans for release?**

We used the services of *Indie Rights* for our first film and believe that is a good company for very small budget indies like this, but are looking forward to our appearance/screening at the

Chattanooga Film Fest as it seems quite a few different distribution companies offer deals to films out of there, but ultimately we are just hoping to get it available on a streaming service asap. Theatrical is probably a pipe dream at this point in the film industry, although we may do some special screenings before release around Texas or LA. We shall see what our budget will yield! But we hope to get it out before the end of 2024.

### **How does it feel now that it's completed?**

It's been a labor of love as is typical with micro-budget filmmaking these days and with how frustrating post-production was on this, it feels great. We were asked to do an [intro](#) to our film for those on the virtual platform for Chattanooga Film Fest in which we had director Justin Petty in makeup as a director whose life and body were falling apart as he is approaching the finish line of completing this movie and the sentiment is not too far from reality. It's good to be done, and we are glad we are all still alive to see it see the light of day. Maybe...we still have not gotten distribution. So...a few more steps until it's actually off our plates. Maybe another year or two and then we can make the next one!

### **What is next for the Monster Closet production group/gang?**

We have a few ideas for the next feature but in various stages. One idea Amy and Adam are working on with us involves an evil cult HOA, which seems to intrigue everyone we tell about it. It might be in the ether, and maybe too late to produce that, but we hope not! Also, Justin is toying with a couple of ideas, one involving the skin of BigFoot...don't ask how that is going to go. And another involving a man who makes low-rent Kaiju videos in his basement in the 1990s and accidentally predicts several national crises that have taken place in the last 25-30 years. In the meantime Joseph is completing his first novel entitled *The Tree of Pam* which should also be out in the next few months. It's sort of a Vonnegut styled future world take on *The Fly*. So there will be more to come before we croak!



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